

The development of our internal resources, the improvement of our water courses, the structure of roads, &c. presents, collectively, a subject of the deepest interest. Whilst our sister States are rising in wealth, increasing in population and extending their influence by a sincere and zealous attention to these objects, North-Carolina has either remained content with the barrenness of Nature, or made such feeble and partial efforts, as only served to throw *real improvement* at a yet greater distance. If we have any honest doubts of the vast advantages resulting from a *well directed and liberally encouraged* plan of internal improvements, let us, for a moment, turn our attention to the State of New-York. Her widely spread tract of western lands, which, but a very few years ago, were scarcely populated and of little value, are now alive and active, with an increasing population; increasing daily in value, and will, at no distant period, be one of the finest sections of the State. She has not only thrown open an advantageous mart to her own citizens, even from the remotest sections of the State, but she has likewise brought within her influence and laid under contribution, the citizens of the adjoining States. And all this, so far from impoverishing, has unquestionably become one of her most certain and extensive sources of revenue, and consequently promises to yield a most liberal interest upon the money expended in the construction of the works.

Upon viewing such a state of things in one of our sister states, does not the question come full upon us—What have *we* done? Surely, if any state in the Union requires internal improvement, that state is our own! The important inquiry then is, has the *time arrived* for prosecuting such undertakings? I, for one, believe it has. It is not my desire to see my fellow-citizens burdened with *unreasonable* taxes for this or any other purpose. If no other reason could be found, that I must suffer in common with them would be sufficient. But we have, at the present time, a considerable surplus revenue appropriated to this end, which, if it was solely and steadily applied to one enterprise, instead of being divided among a great many, and thus rendered inadequate to the production of any beneficial effect, would soon accomplish it. Thus would be established one point in a series of improvement! And then, if the same surplus capital increased by the profits of what had been done, should continue to be applied to other enterprises. North-Carolina might, at no very distant day, be able effectually to execute all that could be esteemed beneficial. Moreover, we cannot but suppose, that our fellow-citizens would cheerfully submit to additional taxes, did they perceive that any thing *effectual* was doing or would be done. Permit me to call your attention, in a particular manner, to one object of internal improvement. From the large quantity of stagnant water which covers an immense body of what could be rendered the most fertile land in the eastern section of our state, originate, in a great measure, those diseases with which its inhabitants are so often afflicted. Some considerable portion of the bottom of those swamps have been granted to individuals, leaving a large remainder in the possession of the state. Some intelligent, spirited and enterprising individuals have attempted to reclaim their portions of these swamp lands, and others would do so, but that it is impossible, from their having no vent for the water on their own lands. In fact, these swamps cannot be drained but by a general effort of the proprietors, and this can only be made under the di-